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THE REDCLIFF REVIEW

W. H. HATCHER, Proprietor
Ed. L. STONE, Editor.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1915.

THE WHEAT MARKET

There is great speculation throughout the west as to the effect the commanding by the Dominion government of wheat at the head of the lakes, will have on the grain market and prices.

As is usual in all government measures the party press opposed to the present government are predicting all kinds of ruin and are crying loudly before they are hurt. Another element which appears to be sitting up nights in order to dig up some causes for complaining and to unearth possible happenings in the dim and distant future, is the big grain dealers.

It is only natural to expect that both these elements should put up the big holler as both of them will, no doubt, be the hardest hit by the move. The former because they very much dislike to see their opponents do anything which will win the approval of the general public and the latter because their pockets will, in all probability, be touched.

Apart from these two sources, however, the general opinion is that this action on the part of the government will be a guarantee against the surplus grain getting into the hands of speculators with the prospects of repeating the large profits made by them last winter.

Although the government's plan is not as yet made known in full, it is only reasonable to assume that it is their intention to continue along this line during the period of war, the Imperial government will furnish boats to transport the grain safely across the Atlantic, and by so doing will considerably reduce the exorbitant rates now being charged. If by so doing the government is able to take a little off the present price paid by the consumer in the old country and add a little here, and at the same time cut out the middle man's profit, there is no doubt it will work out to the advantage of the western farmers.

All things being considered we have no doubt that the tendency in prices will be upwards and further transactions by the authorities will stiffen the market. When a commodity is required by a government the latter usually pays a fair price.

The whole outlook, therefore, following this new situation in Canada is entirely favorable to the farmers who still have a large percentage of the crop in their hands.

WHAT'S THE REASON

The quiet manner in which the ratepayers annual meeting passed off last Monday evening proves one of two things. Either the ratepayers were well satisfied with the manner in which the affairs of the town had been conducted during the past year and with the statement and explanations as set forth by the mayor and chairman of the finance committee, or there is a decided falling off of interest on the part of the ratepayers in the last year.

In view of the fact that the past year has been a most exceptional one, and that owing to financial conditions little, if any, of the work mapped out by the councillors at the beginning of their term, was carried out, there has been nothing much to find fault with. This together with the fact that the council has been able to weather through the year under such ad-

verse circumstances, and, as the chairman of the finance committee stated, were able to pay off some of the debts bequeathed to them by the 1913 council, leads the Review to the conclusion that the first mentioned was the reason for the quiet and slimly attended meeting that Monday evening.

There was only one complaint heard during or after the meeting and that was that the ratepayers had gained little or no knowledge regarding the affairs of the school for the past year.

APPEAL TO FARMERS

The appeal-made to the farmers of Alberta by James Speakman, president of the U. F. A., is a worthy one and, considering conditions in the province this fall, should meet with a hearty response.

Mr. Speakman asks that the farmers send supplies of potatoes and other vegetables, butter and eggs, poultry and meat, to the Soldiers Convalescent hospital at Ogden, Alberta, the provision of which is in the hands of the Red Cross Society.

The whole province has a bountiful harvest this year and in no section has it been any better or possibly as good as right in this immediate district. Every farm has not only produced a record grain crop but every farmer also has an abundance of all kinds of garden stuffs. These are just the things Mr. Speakman is asking for and there should be a liberal response from this section.

SHOP EARLY

Three weeks from tomorrow will be Christmas day, and judging from the appearance of our stores in town the merchants are preparing for it by getting in a complete stock of the usual Christmas goods.

The wise buyer is the one who does his Christmas shopping early. By so doing you not only have the advantage of a better selection but also of better service from the clerks who will have more time to help you make your selections.

Start now to make your selections of presents and by buying a little every day you will find you will be better satisfied on Christmas eve.

Sir John Simon, secretary of state for home affairs, served notice on Lord Northcliffe in the house of commons that if the "gentler way" heretofore pursued to induce his newspapers to stop the "continual fouling of his own nest" did not prove effective it is perfectly possible to take stronger measures. These stronger measures should have been adopted long ago. In Canada papers far less harmful than the Northcliffe sheets have been forbidden the use of the mails.

Canada to Pay His

Own Way in Future

According to a report coming from Ottawa, Canada henceforth is to undertake to pay her own way in the war and to assume wider functions in the financing of the war purchase. The pledge of providing every available man for the prosecution of the great conflict is to be supplemented by the pledge of providing every available dollar.

Hitherto every cent of the Dominion's war expenditure has been defrayed from borrowings from England, and for every dollar's worth of goods England has purchased in Canada, cash has been paid. The days of borrowing on the London market are over, and Canada must in the future look to her own resources, supplemented, perhaps, by borrowing in New York to pay her way. More than that, if Canada desires to remain on the purchasing list of Great Britain she must be prepared to grant British credit for the orders which Great Britain places.

The first venture of the Dominion in her own fields of finance has been remarkably successful.

The Princess Patricia's Light Infantry were on Saturday accompanied with the Canadian corps troops in France, under General Mercer.

Canada War Loan

Is Over Subscribed

Canada's first attempt to raise a domestic war loan has been crowned with complete success. Owing to the united efforts of all classes of the community, the hearty co-operation of the press and the exertions of the minister of finance and his staff, the \$50,000,000 asked for has been subscribed more than twice over. The exact details as to the amount of subscriptions were not available when the

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| 2. Dairy Barns | 7. Poultry Houses |
| 3. Beef Cattle Barns | 8. Implement Sheds & Granaries |
| 4. Horse Barns | 9. Silos and Root Cellars |
| 5. Sheep Barns | 10. Farmhouses |

No expense or trouble has been spared in making these booklets of real value to the farmer. The building plans, the up-to-date information concerning the handling of cattle, horses, sheep, pigs and poultry, and other farm subjects contained in the booklets, have been prepared by the College of Agriculture of the University of Saskatchewan, and are specially designed for prairie conditions. Information concerning the proper wood to use and the means of figuring cost of material before building are supplied by the Forest Service of British Columbia. The object of these bulletins is to help farmers to use material grown and manufactured in Canada. By showing the prairie farmer how to use our Western lumber to the very best advantage, farm building is made easier and cheaper. Good service and satisfaction for the consumer will increase the market for British Columbia lumber. It is upon her great lumbering industry that the prosperity of British Columbia mainly depends. It is sound business for everyone to help build up the West by buying home products.

Any of the above bulletins in which you are interested will be mailed free upon application to the Chief Forester, Victoria, B. C. Complete reference sets will also be supplied to lumber dealers on request.

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General News Notes From Various Points

The Tribune asserts that Austria is aiming to conclude a separate peace, according to a dispatch from Rome.

In his newspaper, *Die Zukunft*, Maximilian Harden says that we must confess that the German people at the moment are suffering great want.

Gen. John Hughes will be inspector general of forces in Western Canada. He succeeds Gen. Sam. Steele, who went to England in charge of the second division.

Hundreds of thousands of the civil population in the Warsaw district of Poland are suffering from want of food. A considerable percentage of this number are homeless, living in huts, caves and abandoned trenches.

A German submarine, attacked by a British aeroplane off Middelburg, on Saturday, was sent to the bottom, according to the official report of Field Marshal Sir John French, which was given by the press on Tuesday.

British casualty lists published during November total 1,232 officers, 46,715 non-commissioned officers and men, in all fields of war, bringing the total since the beginning of hostilities to approximately 1,500,000. The casualties are lighter than in October.

The Earl of Derby, director of recruiting in a letter to the chairman of the British Red Cross, urges the necessity of releasing young and active men of military age to the front, replacing them by men unfit for military service on account of age or physical disability.

The first day under the new drinking hours in London, which number a half as compared with 1914, in the days before the war, passed without untoward incident. No organized demonstrations of the new law manifested anywhere in the metropolitan district.

The new campaign of the Franco-British forces in the German colony of Kamerun, West Africa, has resulted in French advances followed by the capture of Tihati, announced last week. An official statement says that the Pugu river has been reached and that the French have taken Kakaide.

Great Britain has informed Japan that the British government has not contemplated an alliance with China, as has been reported, the Japanese foreign office formally announced in an official statement, emphasizing previous informal declarations to this effect.

Green, in her reply to the latest note of the entente allies, insists upon a maintenance of her neutrality and independence, and the final settlement of the points at issue between the Hellenic kingdom and the entente powers is not yet in sight.

Premier McBride went to the prohibition executive in Vancouver saying he would grant a plebiscite, not a referendum, on the occasion of the next provincial election, which must be held some time between now and next June.

In making a warning to civil service positions the government has decided to give preference to members of the Canadian expeditionary forces, especially to those who through disability occasioned by active service, are unable to fill their previous occupations.

The first public mention here of an attack on the British troops in Woodfield is made in a casualty list just issued. The list contains the names of 30 members of the army service corps, of whom seven are reported to have been killed, eight wounded and 15 interned "as the result of an attack on the transport Woodfield."

Rector's Amsterdam correspondent sends the following: "The Telegram" is running on good authority that serious rioting took place last Saturday in Berlin, in which several thousand women gathered before the imperial castle and demanded the return of their husbands from the front and improvement in food conditions. The crowd finally was dispersed by the police."

The British public is not minded to grant the German contention that the Serbian campaign of the central powers has been brought to a successful conclusion. The hope is expressed that the winter weather will give time for reinforcements to the French troops until they are strong enough to assume the offensive before the invaders have consolidated their positions in Serbia. Russia also is counted on to play a part in these operations.

THE PRICE OF WHEAT AND MIXED FARMING

Prominent Canadian Newspaperman
Makes Original Comment on Wheat Situation

In a recent article Mr. Britton Cooke, one of the leading writers of the day, writes on the wheat problem in Canada. As he views the situation from a somewhat different angle than most of our readers have been accustomed to see it, we quote the following extracts from his article, believing that while many of our readers may not agree, they will at least be interested in seeing how a man on the outside regards Western wheat:

Place of Wheat
Wheat has played an important role in the drama of Canada's evolution. It is a question whether the part may not turn out to have a sinister end. It is possible that Canada may some day regard wheat as California, looking today at her all-but-sterile soil. It is possible, however, that wheat will be of use to Canada for a long time to come. But it is a mistake for Canadians to suppose that wheat has been a profitable crop. The Easterner travelling in the West is shocked to find that wheat is not the golden grain he is led to believe. If he listens, that the wealthy men of the West made their money, not out of wheat, but by selling farm or city land at enhanced prices, or by mixed farming. If Canada relies now upon wheat as her great means of paying her debts abroad and securing further advances, then she should face the fact that according to official figures for 1914-1915, 1913-1914, her wheat-growers secured only a bare margin's wages plus a profit of eight-and-a-half per cent. of what per acre of wheat per year! This has undoubtedly meant cheaper food for foreign workers, but it has meant sacrifice for Canada. Possibly no other course was open at the time, but to rely upon wheat to make Canada rich means slow progress and a low standard of living. To engage our whole population in wheat-growing would be to live on a starvation ration as practically a farm laborer's wage. In the four years referred to the average return to the farmer in Canada on wheat was sixty-six cents per bushel.

The Cost of Wheat
It cost thirty-five cents (average) to land the wheat to Liverpool and pay the incidental expenses. It costs \$12 per acre to prepare the soil, sow, reap, thresh and haul the grain from that place to the elevator, allowing farm laborer's wages to the farmer only. The average yield per acre of wheat for all kinds in the year mentioned was 13.51 bushels. Thus 13.51 bushels at 66 cents yielded \$12.87—87 cents more than cost. No small sum, farmers made much more than that. But as many as made more how many made less? If wheat prices were falling under these conditions there would be a gleam of comfort. But they do not tend upward, except for rare and short periods such as the one now prevailing, when exceptional circumstances have altered the ordinary conditions of the wheat markets of the world. Seventy-five per cent. of Russia's population is agricultural population on seemingly unlimited acres of excellent wheat land. The sons of Western farmers who may be helping to force upon the Bessarabians are bringing closer the day of cheaper wheat for the world. The missionaries in India and the government authorities in Egypt—all are helping directly or indirectly to increase the world's wheat production. Still it is not able to send her wheat to Liverpool through the Panama Canal. The world total wheat production increased at between 1909 and 1914 from 1,246,696,000 bushels to 1,567,312,000 bushels, or by a total of over 300,000,000 bushels. In other words, the world in seven years added to its wheat supply more than five times the total export of wheat from Canada in 1914!

This entry goes to indicate that the general decline of wheat prices to be observed in British records since 1909-10 is likely to continue, and that from getting sixty-six cents a bushel on the average the Canadian farmer may come to grow less. The reduction of transportation rates on wheat—a thing that may come through the increase of coal and wheat traffic on Canadian railways and not chiefly by arbitrary rate reductions—may for a time keep up the price to the farmer. How far this new procedure will undermine the British policy of Free Trade remains to be seen, but the opinion is growing that British manufacturers will need a preference in their home market in order to meet the heavy taxes now being laid upon them and also to continue their export trade after the war.

will look upon wheat growing as a great business.
Wheat Down—Other Products Up
While wheat prices have tended downward, what of other farm products? It is not significant that farm prices, for a man, is estimated to have risen from \$10 a month in 1909 to \$14.49 in 1914. This is a 44.9 per cent. increase. Does that not mean that with wheat prices going down farm costs have been going up? While the wheat market has been affected by all sorts of trade winds, the average price to the Canadian farmer in the market for eggs for export rose steadily from 12 1/2 cents per dozen in 1909 to 39 cents in 1914. The average price of milk cows in Canada rose from \$12.75 in 1910 to \$42.25 in 1914. The average value of the product of a milk cow in Canada rose in the same period from \$27.50 to \$29.53. The average price in Canada per head of cattle was in 1901, \$11.11, and in 1911, \$21.92. The average value per head of sheep rose in the same period from \$4.18 to \$4.32, and of the wool clip from 177 cents per pound to 21.1 cents per pound. The average value per head of horses in Canada was in 1901, \$12.98, and in 1911, \$14.65. The Canadian cheese shipments abroad have fallen off in order to meet growing home market demand. In 1914, we lost the butter trade in England and now have to import over one million dollars' worth of butter per year. It might well be supposed that with so little profit on wheat, so much profit on so great a variety of other farm products, cheese and cattle, there would have been more grain fed to cattle.

It would seem obvious that the farm grain and sell dairy products or beef is the same as transforming a low-profit raw material into a high-profit finished product.

The Farmer's Place
The annual wage and salary roll of Toronto—most of it spent ultimately on articles originating on the farm—increased in the twenty years between 1901 and 1911 from \$649,537 to \$26,045,515; that of Montreal from \$1,251,372 to \$24,270,832; Winnipeg from \$1,766,610 to \$7,414,644; Edmonton from \$1,000,000 to \$14,000,000; Calgary from \$1,664,700 to \$15,663,239; Vancouver from \$654,650 to \$4,019,648; Regina from \$600,000 to \$3,500,000; St. John from \$1,848,540 to \$12,269,395; and Sydney from \$1,624,624 to \$2,231,327. Yet in the second half of the same period the number of food-producers to meet this augmented buying-power increased not much more than 24,701.

A New National Policy Needed
Caught between rising food costs at home and falling wheat prices abroad, the wheat producers of Canada turn against the railways, against the manufacturers and against the tariff. Here is where lies the sinister influence of wheat. The lack of a real National Policy of Production for Canada becomes manifest. The wheat miner, seeing no better national future than to grow wheat, would yield to the economic pressure of the highly efficient American nation to the south and have Canada become what she may only too easily become—a mere feeder of raw materials to American workmen. To correct the difficulties of wheat-growing the unwise wheat-grower would place in jeopardy the whole scheme of internal trade relations in Canada.

It would appear as though Canada had outgrown the national policy once so highly spoken of, and that she needs another. One is tempted to ask whether it would not be wise for men to consider seriously whether it is to be allowed merely to grow along the lines of the least resistance, shape herself to the needs of the United States, or whether it is possible to conceive a career for a nation and organize the nation to that end. The easy path is localized agriculturalism, growing always what somebody else wants and never what is wanted at home. The difficult path is the path of combined agriculture and industry. The first is the course of inefficient nations such as Russia and Japan, the highest civilization. The second is the course of efficiency, not easy, calling for courage, but by which the economic, social, political, intellectual and artistic life of the world may be made really national.

BRITISH WAR BUDGET

The war budget recently brought down in the Imperial House of Commons by Chancellor McKenna, imposes a 23 1/2 per cent. customs duty on motor cars, bicycles, picture films, clocks, cameras, musical instruments, plate glass and hats; and increases the duty on sugar from 44 cents to \$2.54 per hundredweight; and 44 cents, 50 per cent., and on patent medicines, 100 per cent.

How far this new procedure will undermine the British policy of Free Trade remains to be seen, but the opinion is growing that British manufacturers will need a preference in their home market in order to meet the heavy taxes now being laid upon them and also to continue their export trade after the war.

Government Loans

Grain to Owners

A report from Winnipeg Tuesday says: "By midnight tonight, when the first period of navigation closed on the Great Lakes, 9,240,000 bushels of government commandeered wheat had cleared for the lower lakes. Of this 8,701,000 bushels was shipped to United States ports, the government having loaned back to the former owners their grain in order to meet contracts. At 11:40 o'clock today, the time limit for clearing November under, every trade was cleared up, either by delivery or purchase. The amount involved in the clearing process was around \$5,000,000.

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Charge for Passports To Cross the Pond

Any person who intends visiting the old country will have to secure a passport before being allowed on board any liner leaving Canadian or United States ports. The cost of the passport will be \$2, with \$1 extra incidental expenses. It takes about four days to secure a passport.

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